

## **Park Purchase and Initial Construction**

100 acres for the first Gallatin County Regional Park was purchased in 2002 with Open Space Bond Funds for \$2.3 million. The Park is located on the west side of Bozeman between Baxter Lane (north side), Oak Street (south side), Davis Road (east side), and the to-be-constructed Ferguson Road (on the west side). The Park is currently unnamed. The purchase and initial development of the Park was due to the support of a local non-profit group named FORParks, Inc. Approximately 16 acres on the north end of the Park is leased (?) to the YMCA.

The buy-sell contract for the Park included construction of two lakes, an amphitheater, parking lots, and a trail system surrounding the two lakes. Final work on that buy-sell contract is anticipated to be completed by the sellers in May 2007. A large portion of the Park is permanently deeded wetlands to mitigate wetland destruction offsite. An August 2007 opening of the Park is planned.

## **Master Plan Adoption and Future Park Development**

A conceptual park schematic was developed in 2005 by FORParks with input from a variety of community groups. This schematic was never formally adopted by the County. In 2007, the community is invited to [planning charrettes](#), on June 2 and June 23, to update and finalize a master plan for the park. These charrettes will be conducted by Bill Pond, a Montana State University Assistant Professor in Landscape Design. After the community charrettes, the Gallatin County Park Commission will adopt a Master Plan for the Regional Park in a public meeting. It is anticipated that the Master Plan will continue to be refined and revised in upcoming years, as funds, other park facilities in the county, and necessary planning is completed. At this time, some phases of the Master Plan may remain conceptual (e.g., active recreation components such as baseball or soccer fields) until such time as the County completes an updated County-wide parks plan.

Limited County dollars exist for development and maintenance of the Regional Park. The Master Plan will be the foundation for the development of various community-based park projects for the park site. It is anticipated that community groups will also maintain active recreation components of the park until a fund is established for county park maintenance. Development and maintenance proposals

will be approved by the Board of Park Commissioners using the Master Plan to guide decisions.